

drought conditions in Texas are parching farming and grazing lands that will cost an estimated \$1.7 Billion in crop and livestock losses. Drought conditions are also being reported in areas throughout the South. And the summer of 1998 has not yet officially begun.

Every region in the United States can be hit by these catastrophes. Yet, while drought is so pervasive and affects the economic and environmental well-being of the entire nation, the United States is poorly prepared to deal with serious drought emergencies. As a result of the hardships being suffered in every part of my state last year, I convened a special Multi-State Drought Task Force of federal, state, local, and tribal emergency management agencies to coordinate efforts to respond to the drought. The Task Force was ably headed up by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and included every federal agency that has programs designed to deal with drought.

Unfortunately, what the Task Force found was this: although the federal government has numerous drought related programs on the books, we have no integrated, coordinated system of implementing those programs. Drought victims in this nation do not know who to turn to for help, and when they finally do find help, it is too late and totally inadequate. The gradual nature of drought devastation underscores the need for drought management rather than drought response.

This legislation will be the first step toward finally establishing a coherent, effective national drought policy. The House-passed bill only slightly modifies my original language which passed the Senate in November. The National Drought Policy Act of 1998 creates a commission comprised of representatives of those federal, state, local, and tribal agencies and organizations that are most involved with drought issues. S. 222 charges the commission with providing recommendations on a permanent and systematic Federal process to address this particular type of devastating natural disaster.

Unfortunately, drought conditions are a way of life in my region of the country. But better planning on our part, and with the recommendations of the Drought Commission established by this legislation, may limit some of the damage. I look forward to the President's prompt signing of this important legislation.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1998

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 25. I further ask that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted and the Senate then resume consideration of S. 2057, the defense authorization bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the Senate will reconvene on Thursday at 9:30 a.m. and resume consideration of the defense authorization bill. Under the previous order, Senator WELLSTONE will immediately be recognized to offer an amendment regarding DOD schools under a 30-minute time agreement. At the expiration of the debate time, the Senate will proceed to vote on or in relation to the Wellstone amendment.

Following that vote, there will be 10 minutes for closing remarks with respect to the Inhofe amendment regarding BRAC, with a vote occurring following the debate. There will then be 10 minutes for closing remarks with respect to the Harkin amendment relative to VA health care, followed by a vote in relation to that amendment.

Therefore, three votes will occur beginning at 10 a.m.

Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the previously mentioned debate times be equally divided in the usual form.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, following those votes, it is hoped that the Members will come to the floor during Thursday's session to offer and debate amendments, with the understanding that the bill will be concluded during Thursday's session.

Also, the Senate could be asked to consider, under short time agreements, the clean needles bill, the reading excellence bill, the drug czar reauthorization bill, any available appropriations bills, and any other legislative or executive items that may be cleared for action.

Also, the Senate can be expected to consider, prior to the Independence

Day recess, the higher education bill. Therefore, Members can expect a busy session Thursday and Friday of this week.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 10:27 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, June 25, 1998, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate June 24, 1998:

THE JUDICIARY

BARRY P. GOODE, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT, VICE CHARLES E. WIGGINS, RETIRED.

ROBERT BRUCE KING, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT, VICE KENNETH K. HALL, RESIGNED.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

THOMASINA V. ROGERS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING APRIL 27, 2001, VICE DANIEL GUTTMAN.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate June 24, 1998:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

LOUIS CALDERA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY.

THE ABOVE NOMINATION WAS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEE'S COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive message transmitted by the President to the Senate on June 24, 1998, withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

DANIEL GUTTMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 27, 2001, VICE EDWIN G. FOULKE, JR., TERM EXPIRED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 9, 1997.